

# **Historic, Archive Document**

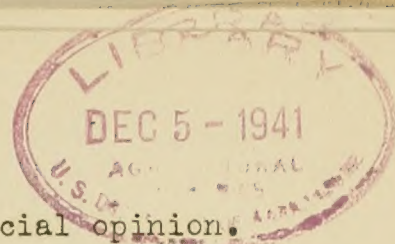
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
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NOTE: Compiled from various sources. Not an expression of official opinion.

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 397

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, 1941

LATIN AMERICA BACKS U.S. VIGILANCE in transfer of troops from Trinidad to protect bauxite mines in Netherlands Guiana. Presidents of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras have supported the action; Colombia's newspaper, Liberal of Bogota, declares action is more important in Far East than in this hemisphere, "since Japan understands now what may happen in the Netherlands Indies if United States security is threatened." Attitude of Latin America influenced by Far East situation and domination of Vichy government by Germany, increasing Nazi threat from French Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe. (C.H. Calhoun, N.Y. Times)

PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY 80 PERCENT COMPLETED. Experts predict completion from United States to Canal and through South America in another 5 years. "It is more than a highway for tourists, more than an avenue of commerce; it is destined to knit together the social and political fabric of many nations and to help realize the dream of Pan American solidarity. Along its 15,000 miles a new wave of the future is emerging. (Herbert C. Lanks, N.Y. Times)

ALLIED RALLIES FORBIDDEN BY ARGENTINA. Reason given was that Government could not tolerate meetings "to protest against the supposed Government policy of international isolation." Meetings proposed to hold demonstration "for the triumph of democracy both inside and outside Argentina, against fifth-column conspiracy, for firm adhesion to the American front, and for the triumph of the Allied cause." (arnold Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE STATE DEFIES RALLY BAN. Governor Enrique Mihura of the Province of Entre Rios defies instructions forbidding "American Front" meetings, and allows Accion Argentina, pro-British organization, to hold public meetings to affirm Argentina's support of the democratic cause. Accion Argentina had scheduled 3,000 mass meetings for the day -- but only the citizens of Entre Rios demonstrated publicly, defying Federal order in line with Acting President Ramon S. Castillo's "strict neutrality" policy. The Pampero, Nazi propaganda organ, applauds action, asserting that "Accion Argentina, the bridgehead of Yankee warmongers in our country, must be dissolved by executive power." (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE TRADE SNAGS REPORTED. Foreign Policy Association reports that shipping and priority problems were hampering exchange of goods between U.S. and Argentina. Despite rise in imports from Argentina, U.S. exports to that country have declined from \$84,795,000 in January-August, 1940, to \$56,000,000 in same period in 1941, due to United States' growing preoccupation with defense production. (Baltimore Sun)

BRAZILIANS VISIT BELTSVILLE. Forty-eight agricultural students spend day at U.S. agricultural research center viewing results of agricultural experimentation. (Baltimore Sun)

MEXICAN PAPER CHIDES U.S. FOR STRIKE WAVE. Editorial in Excelsior asks: "How can the U.S. undertake a victorious war to safeguard the principles of Western civilization if its internal situation is not equal to the task?" Impression of U.S. disunity has qualified favorable impression created by Mexican-U.S. agreements. (Baltimore Sun)







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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 398

December 2, 1941.

FIRST LADY INVITED TO TOUR AMERICAS. Invitation tendered by Inter-American Commission of Women and forwarded by Señora Ana Rosa S. de Martínez Guerrero of Argentina, chairman of the commission. With "deep appreciation," Mrs. Roosevelt replied: "It is my sincere hope that at some future time I may be able to accept your most cordial invitation." Mrs. Roosevelt announced at her press conference that she had arranged with Nelson Rockefeller for temporary assignment of Miss Mary Winslow to OCD for development of programs of volunteer defense activities by women of Central and South American countries. (N.Y. Times)

ARMY REPORTER "COVERS" NETHERLANDS GUIANA COUP. Army takes cue from German military experience by sending Lt. Col. Stanley J. Grogan, War Department's "flying reporter" to cover arrival of United States force in Paramaribo, Netherlands Guiana. (Washington Star)

INDUSTRIES URGED FOR SOUTH AMERICA by Warren Lee Pierson, president of Export-Import Bank. To its agricultural economy, Latin America must add the "industries which Europe has never wanted them to have," he declared before 600 members and guests at annual Bankers Forum dinner. "To our own alarmists," he added, "I wish to recall that our most valuable markets are the rich industrial areas of the world." Mr. Pierson pointed out that in "all our dealings with the governments and banks of South America we have not had a single item in default." (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE RADICAL PARTY LEADER ARRESTED. José Carlos Vidal held on charge of disrespect to government as result of accusing Acting President Castillo of abridging rights of people in banning pro-democratic meetings which Acción Argentina had planned throughout country. (Washington Star)

36 MOUSE OPOSSUMS BROUGHT FROM ECUADOR to be studied for first time in United States at the American Museum of Natural History. Very rare, the animals are useful to science because they are small enough for research in biology and animal psychology. (N.Y. Times)

PAN-AMERICANISM CAN BE MADE TO WORK, Dr. Héctor David Castro, Minister of El Salvador, tells Twentieth Century Club. Says "Differences of race, religion and language are not a barrier which may prevent the American republics from attaining a proper understanding of their common problems." (Washington Post)

EL SALVADOR SEEKS U.S. LOAN. National Congress authorizes President to contract loan of \$2,900,000 with Export-Import Bank of Washington for use in public works, especially Pan-American Highway, which is more nearly complete in El Salvador than in any other country. (N.Y. Times)







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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 399

December 3, 1941.

U.S. ALLOCATES TIN PLATE TO LATIN AMERICA. SPAB agrees to speed shipment of 218,600 metric tons of tin plate to Latin American countries to relieve shortage of important metal necessary for canning of foodstuffs. This tin-plate policy adopted at request of Economic Defense Board constitutes "first step in a simplified program designed to assure delivery of essential commodities to meet the import needs of Latin America." Similar allocation orders covering farm equipment, rayon, iron and steel, caustic soda, borax and aniline expected from defense board in near future. (Charles E. Egan, N.Y. Times)

"DRINK MORE COFFEE" CAMPAIGN inaugurated by seven "coffee queens" from Latin American countries who begin good-will tour of U.S. Receptions for representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica and Cuba will be held at Brazilian Embassy and White House. (N.Y. Times)

RIFT IN ARGENTINA OVER FREE SPEECH WIDENS. Federal government maintains that Argentina's foreign affairs are its exclusive concern and that the people must abstain from manifesting their dissent if they disapprove. Governor of Entre Rios maintains with equal insistence that people of his province will enjoy constitutional right to criticize any of government's actions of which they disapprove. (N.Y. Times)

USE OF MEXICAN SILVER AS SUBSTITUTE FOR COPPER in electrical industry, suggested in editorial. Since we plan to pay Mexico about 25 million dollars yearly for a metal we cannot put to good use, and since there is an acute shortage of copper for defense needs, suggestion made that shortage be made up out of silver surplus. "There would not even be the loss of the cache, since the silver in a copper cable would still be as much 'stored' as the silver in a vault," says editorial. (Washington Post)

MEXICO PLANS OIL EXPANSION. "Pemex"--Mexican Petroleum Administration--will invest 40,000,000 pesos (about \$8,000,000) chiefly for exploration and modernization of refineries. Money will be expended in northern oil regions, especially around Tampico and Pozo Rica. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS EXTENDS MEXICO-GUATEMALA RUN by addition of second daily round trip flight. This service links Brownsville, Texas, with Guatemalan Capital, and provides for round trip flight daily. (Christian Science Monitor)

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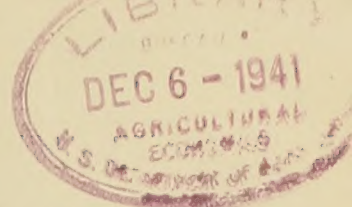






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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 400

December 4, 1941

189 MORE NAMES PUT ON BLACKLIST of nationals having Axis ties in Latin America. Purpose is to withhold benefits of American trade by forbidding American firms, under penalty of fines, to deal with companies and individuals having dealings with Axis interests. (N.Y. Times)

FALANGIST ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA have become matter of concern to State Department. General Franco reported to be forming official news agency to disseminate German propaganda. All Spanish propaganda has been directed by Falangist Secretary General José Luis de Arrese. "We trust," remarks editorial, "that from now on the State Department will prevent Phalangist agents from passing through this country en route to their posts. (The Nation)

ARGENTINE DEPUTY CALLS CASTILLO PRO-NAZI. Eduardo Araujo declares that Acting President Castillo is "virtually a dictator and thoroughly pro-Nazi," and uses his military authority and majority in the Senate to override will of 90 percent of population in favor of the democracies. Señor Araujo flew to this country recently to intercede with State Department on behalf of 86 European refugees denied transit visas through Argentina by Castillo. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL FORTIFIES HER COAST at Natal, closest city in Western Hemisphere to Vichy-held Dakar, and focal point for commercial transport planes of Nazi-Fascist Axis and Allied powers. Strategic importance of Natal has led Brazilian Government to concentrate large armed force here and start building a modern naval base. (E.M. Castro, Christian Science Monitor)

PROBLEM OF DEFENSE DISCUSSED IN CHILE. Foreign Minister Juan Rosetti states that question of continental defense has been covered and possible repercussions of conflict between Japan and United States discussed. Business circles do not conceal anxiety over complications that may arise out of withdrawal of Japan as an important purchaser of Chilean copper, mercury, cobalt and iron. Discussions from military point of view emphasize importance of Straits of Magellan in case Panama Canal should be closed. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA TO BUY FROM SWEDEN. Arrangements being made to purchase machinery and drugs that cannot be obtained from United States. Sweden will accept coffee, rice, hides, castor oil and other native products in exchange. (N.Y. Times)

U.S. OFFERS TO BUY CUBA'S '42 SUGAR CROP at 2.65 ¢ per pound. Such a price would give island producers their largest income since 1927, when average price f.o.b. was 2.80¢. Reports of U.S. offer followed closely the return of Cuban commission which had been in Washington for past few weeks laying groundwork for transaction. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY AT LAST and not "Yanqui imperialists" is Mexico's reaction toward agreement, writes Washington correspondent. Withdrawal of unofficial embargo on sale of Mexican oil and silent acceptance of Mexican subsoil rights--law which goes back to the Spanish crown--most important of bargaining weapons given Mexico against our oil companies by the Good Neighbor agreement, according to writer. (I.F. Stone, The Nation)

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DEC 9 - 1941

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 401

December 5, 1941.

BRITISH IN LATIN AMERICA CRITICIZED by House group which recently returned from tour of 17 Latin American countries. State Department urged to survey trade rivalry with U.S. Request by legislators, members of House Committee on Appropriations, states that British are soliciting orders for commodities that U.S., because of priorities requirements, cannot deliver. (N.Y. Times)

NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION "Jammed" through House, says editorial. Declares bill favors U.S. sugar interests at cost of antagonizing 130 million in South and Central America, Philippines and Hawaii, and at injury of all but small remnant of U.S. residents. (N.Y. Times)

CONSERVATIVES GAIN IN ARGENTINE POLLING. National Democrats increase margin of victory over Radical Party in Acting President Castillo's province of Catamarca. Radical opposition favors outright support of democracies and Pan-Americanism. Police have broken up Radical party meetings as soon as any speaker criticized Castillo Government policy. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZILIAN SEA LANES GUARDED IN HEMISPHERE DEFENSE. Recife, port of air and sea strength, prepared against attempt at military conquest of western world. Recife would lend itself for use as defensive naval base in case of aggression, and port improvements with this emergency in mind are under way. (E. M. Castro, Christian Science Monitor)

AMERICAN AND BRAZILIAN MILITARY COOPERATION in Netherlands Guiana proves that Lima and Havana conferences laid foundation for concerted action when danger threatened. Brazilian troops on southern border will be in position to watch area north of Amazon Valley where secret Japanese air bases are rumored to exist. (C.S. Monitor)

CHILEAN PAPERS INVITE 7 U.S. GUEST REPORTERS. Delegation scheduled to sail for Valparaiso December 19. Interchange of journalists initiated by Claude G. Bowers, U.S. Ambassador to Chile. (Washington Post)

AVILA CAMACHO BEGINS SECOND YEAR in office after year marked by rapprochement with U.S., by strengthening of Mexico's defenses and by efforts to solve Mexico's economic and political problems. Prestige enhanced by recent Washington agreements. Political picture marred by struggle between left and right elements in cabinet, problem of church education, and conflicts with Sinarquistas, considered by leftists to be check troops for fifth column. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICAN LEGISLATORS SEEK TO OUST NAZI ENVOY. Sixteen members of Cámara say they will demand expulsion of Baron Rudt von Collenberg, German Minister to Mexico, as a fifth columnist. (Washington Star)

JAPANESE ENVOY HASTES TO QUIT MEXICO. Decision prompted by courier from Washington bringing confidential reports of progress of U.S.-Japanese negotiations, according to diplomatic circles. (Washington Post)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 402

December 6-8, 1941.

PAN-AMERICAN NATIONS SUPPORT U.S. AGAINST JAPAN. Costa Rica and Nicaragua declare war on Japan immediately; Mexico's President summons congress to consider declaration of war; Panama declares that attack on U.S. would be considered an attack on Panama; Minister of Dominican Republic reports his country will "give its support to whatever declaration is made by the United States Congress;" Cuba's Batista reiterates that Cuba would be first nation to go to war at side of U.S. (Washington Post)

CLOSER COOPERATION ADVISED by Director Earl H. Bressman of the Agricultural Division of the office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, in order to raise living standards of Americas. Suggests encouraging "industrialization in crowded areas of Latin America," and development of "such complementary agricultural products as rubber, quinine, abaca, kapok and oil plants in tropical areas." (Washington Post)

NELSON ROCKEFELLER SEEKS HEMISPHERE UNITY, declaring that total warfare has created a new "geography of defense." Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs tells Madison Civics Club that we must be concerned with the 20 countries south of us because "what threatens us threatens them; what strengthens them will strengthen us." (N.Y. Times)

LATIN AMERICAN EXILE to write about culture, habits and problems of U.S. Luis Alberto Sanchez, exiled from Peru in 1934 because of Aprista activities, invited by Archibald MacLeish to undertake journalistic study of United States. Mr. Sanchez speaks with enthusiasm about "middle class." Asked about North Americans, he answered that he finds them "insular." (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

CHICAGO SUN RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS. Nelson Rockefeller gratified that new daily will give special attention to reporting of inter-American topics. Eduardo Santos, President of Colombia, writes: "In sending to the Sun my cordial best wishes for its success, I speak not only as the president of a country of 9 million free men which is the frank friend of the United States of America, but also as a journalist of yesterday and tomorrow who knows the power of the press and desires to see it always devoted . . . to the service of solidarity of the Americas." (Chicago Sun)

ALLEGED ELECTION FRAUD stirs Buenos Aires. Federal Judge Ramon Vasquez raids printing plants and seizes faked ballot papers believed to be part of scheme to falsify election results. National Democrats deny knowledge of plot and accuse Radicals of conspiracy to discredit them. Campaign meetings quiet except in city of Avellaneda where police break up meeting when speaker notes Nazi envoy has not been expelled according to request adopted by Congress (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

(Over)



## LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST - 2

U.S., BOLIVIA SIGN LEND-LEASE PACT. Agreement, seventh of kind signed with American republics, reported to allot 10 million to 15 million dollars to La Paz government. Program for U.S. economic aid to Bolivia calls for technical and financial assistance. To assist in formation of plans, an American mission composed of Harry P. Hart, road expert, Wilbur Harlan, agriculturalist, and William Vandenburg, mining engineer, has arrived in La Paz, and for 6 months will survey roads, nature of assistance needed by agricultural and cattle-raising industries, and help mining concerns increase production. (N.Y. Times)

FIRST COLOMBIAN STUDENT GROUP arrives in New York to attend special courses at University of Pennsylvania under auspices of Institute of International Education. Value of interchanging knowledge by intellectual groups emphasized by Abel Cruz-Santos, Consul General of Colombia, and can best be achieved in an "artless and cordial" intellectual atmosphere. Dr. Stephen Duggan, Director of the Institute, hails arrival of students as better bridging between U.S. and Colombia. (Christian Science Monitor)

BATISTA REQUESTS EMERGENCY POWER to rule Cuba by decree for 45 days. "The time has come to adopt the extraordinary measures required by national defense," he said in his message to Congress. According to Constitution, emergency period can last only 45 days during which time constitutional guarantees would be suspended and President and Cabinet given power to rule by decree. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICAN LABOR LEADER RE-ELECTED president of Latin American Confederation of Labor. Lombardo Toledano, retired secretary of the Confederation of Mexican Labor, will tour Latin America in effort to organize CTAL. If Lombardo duplicates his Mexican success in the continental labor organization, it is believed that a new Left Wing political power of paramount significance in hemisphere affairs will develop. Resolutions passed at Congress support democracies in strengthening continental defense and rooting out Nazi-Fascist agents. Feature of future program of CTAL is organization of affiliated farm confederation. Delegates urged to support progressive governments and oppose "reactionary" ones. (Christian Science Monitor)

NEW ERA IN MEXICO attracts U.S. capital. Respite from revolution, and financial commitments from Washington awakening interests of U.S. capitalists in investment opportunities in Mexico. Two sources urging capital to migrate are unpromising outlook in States, occasioned by high taxes and low earning power, and alluring possibilities in Mexico. Chief obstacles to such an investment boom include her political instability, growing nationalism, and dependence on U.S. for machinery and raw materials for industrial expansion. Fields for capital exist in expansion of electrical power, railway rehabilitation and industrial development. (Harold Callender, N.Y. Times)

MEXICO ASKS PRIVATE FUNDS FOR SCHOOLS closed because they were located on expropriated property recently returned to owners by Supreme Court ruling. Private loan of 45,000,000 pesos (\$9,315,000) being considered, but has not been approved by President. Solicitation of funds from private sources seems contrary to Cardenas' conception of State education, financed by Federal funds. Education reorganization continues to be agitated question with demonstrations demanding repeal of Article 3 which would permit reopening of church schools. (Christian Science Monitor)



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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 403

December 9, 1941.

AMERICAN REPUBLICS SUPPORT U.S. Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic have met Japan's challenge with formal declarations of war. Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia and Brazil to allow United States warships the use of their ports.

Further Reactions: Argentina's ailing President Roberto Ortiz sends message to President Roosevelt saying that Japan's "aggression disgusts the sensibility of all America." Brazil takes over 8 of 12 Italian ships in her ports; President Vargas and his cabinet agree to give "absolute solidarity to the United States."

Chile orders naval measures to protect her coast, and announces that the United States has accepted her suggestion for a conference of all 21 foreign ministers to adopt a common policy against Japan. Colombia breaks off diplomatic relations with Japan. In Ecuador military authorities assign troops to guard American and British properties, including oil fields, mines, airports and electrical power plants.

Mexico also severs diplomatic ties with Japan and guards her Pacific coast line with naval patrol and land batteries. Panama interns Japanese residents in Isthmus lest they sabotage Canal link. Peru freezes Japanese funds and declares "an absolute, frank and unflinching solidarity" with the U.S.

Puerto Rico pledges President Roosevelt the "fortunes, lives and honor" of the Puerto Rican people and asks that they be given opportunity to do their full part. Venezuela announces firm support of U.S. (Journal of Commerce, Washington Post, Washington Star)

HISTORIAN PREDICTS SEA FIGHTING OFF CHILE. Dr. Edwin Ryan, Catholic University professor of South American history, recalls how Chileans of German descent aided German navy in South Pacific during last war, and states belief that similar assistance might be given Japanese in that area now. (Washington Post)

SPANISH REFUGEES FIND HOME IN ECUADOR, 35 miles from Quito. First of 5,000 Spanish families are building a colony on 740-acre tract allotted by Ecuador. Among other privileges the colonists may become citizens of Ecuador. (Washington Star)

MEXICO RATIONS GAS to capital taxi drivers and orders them to stop cruising to save fuel and tires for national defense. Edict restricts taxis to between 2-1/2 and 4 gallons of gas a day and establishes parking zones where drivers can wait for fares. Taxi operators protest restrictions. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

JAPAN'S ENVOY TO MEXICO confident of Japanese victory because Japan never has lost a war. Minister Yoshiaki Mirua sees no reason why relations between Japan and Mexico should not be friendly. Costa Rica's action natural, he says, because she "is a dependency of the United States." (Washington Star)

VEZUELA TAKES MEASURES TO GUARD PETROLEUM FIELDS in order to prevent sabotage. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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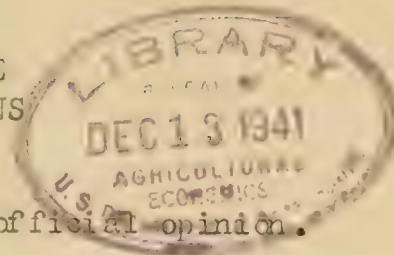






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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 404

December 10, 1941.

REAGAN CONSIDERS ALL AMERICAN REPUBLICS ENEMIES, President Roosevelt says in radio address to nation. Adds: "The people of our sister republics of the Hemisphere can be honored by that."

CONFERENCE OF AMERICAS SPEEDED. Believe conference of all foreign ministers of American Republics may be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in mid-January. (N.Y. Times)

LATIN AMERICANS IN NEW YORK SUPPORT U.S., urge Western Hemisphere Republics to come to our aid, even if it means declaring war. Free World group is headed by J. Alvarez del Vayo, former Foreign Minister of Spain. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINA GRANTS U.S. NON-BELLIGERENT STATUS, exempting this country from restrictions usually imposed on belligerent nations by neutrals. In Washington, Argentina is among leaders in arranging for joint defense consultation. Argentine Embassy in Tokyo to take over British, Canadian, Australian and Greek interests. (N.Y. Times)

BOLIVIA WARNING AGAINST SABOTAGE in mining industries. Report Axis agents and saboteurs already are active. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL ORDERS REGULATION OF BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS of all foreigners except citizens of other American Republics. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILEAN NAVY FLIES PACIFIC COAST PATROL. Nation to treat U.S. as non-belligerent. (N.Y. Times)

U.S. HOUSE VOTES WAR against Japan and Senate is expected to follow. Three thousand university students march to Capitol, demanding war declaration. (N.Y. Times)

CUBAN SUGAR EXPORTS INCREASE by 48 percent during Jan. 1-Dec. 6 period, compared with same period year earlier. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

PANAMA TREATS COSTA RICA'S WAR DECLARATION, presumably will treat those of other Central American countries in same manner. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICAN TROOPS PASS THROUGH U.S. today, en route to reinforce defenses of Mexican State of Baja (Lower) California. State Department cites incident as example of neighborly cooperation. (N.Y. Times)

PANAMA DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN, completing lineup of Central American countries in this action. (N.Y. Times)

PERU FREEzes JAPANESE ASSETS, exempting only goods drawn by Japanese for amounts necessary to satisfy vital needs. (N.Y. Times)

URUGUAY DECLARATION OF WAR asked by Colorado Party, which controls Chamber of Deputies. Report Uruguay may equip volunteer corps to serve with U.S. (N.Y. Times)

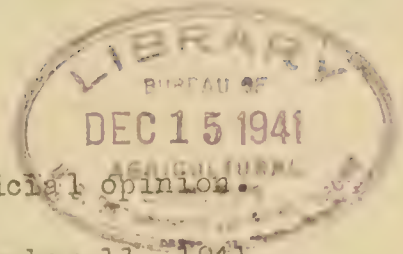
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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 405

December 11, 1941.

LATIN AMERICAN HIGHLIGHTS IN U.S.-JAPANESE WAR. United States invites 20 American republics to defense conference in Rio de Janeiro the first week in January to organize New World front against Japan and other Axis foes. U.S. note to sister republics credits Chile with initiating events leading to meeting. Chilean and United States action taken in accordance with procedure agreed upon by American foreign ministers in Havana, a meeting which accented the policy of continental solidarity built up since 1936 by conferences at Buenos Aires, Lima and Panama. Argentina freezes Japanese funds; measure said to be temporary. Brazil's action in freezing funds of non-American nations at war applauded by press as gesture of Pan-Americanism; causes run on Axis banks. Chile starts negotiations with Argentina to end demilitarization treaty signed in 1881 and permit defensive steps necessary to put Strait of Magellan on military footing. Colombia's House of Representatives approves bill granting government emergency powers to meet international situation. Colombian government planes patrolling coastal shipping lanes by order of War Ministry. Cuba's declaration of war completes alignment of Central American and West Indies republics with United States. Cuban government forbids entry of European nationals; measure applies particularly to European refugees arriving aboard Spanish steamers and exempts nationals of British Empire countries coming as tourists. Mexico's "solidarity and co-operation" pledged by President Avila Camacho in nine minute radio speech to nation; declares that Mexico can best help States by increasing industrial and agricultural production. Mexican peasant army composed of 50,000 members of National Peasants' Federation announces readiness for military service, and requests incorporation into army. Paraguay most recent republic to pledge aid "in the face of Japanese aggression." Uruguay studies proposal to break off diplomatic relations with Axis countries. Venezuela condemns Japanese aggression and reaffirms friendship with U.S. (Washington Star, N.Y. Times, Washington Post)

RUBBER RATIONING LIKELY says Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones in warning Congress that new sources must be found and production of synthetic rubber encouraged. "I think we have got to assume that rubber will be cut off on the Pacific," he said. "South America will have to use its rubber for its own needs. If we are cut off, we will not be able to get along for more than two years and will really be in a desperate situation." U.S. is getting about 5,000 tons from Mexico which might be increased to 7,000 tons; the 14,000 tons received from the Amazon Valley might be stepped up fivefold within 18 months; and from Peru, Colombia and Central America another 20,000 tons could be brought. (N.Y. Times)

NEW FISH OIL SOURCE REPORTED IN PERU FISH OIL by 3 U.S. Government experts on survey financed by Peru. Tuna, bonito and other fish found in Peruvian waters pronounced valuable source of fish liver oils for export trade. Cut off from European sources of vitamin-bearing fish oils, U.S. could absorb these products for human consumption and livestock. Plans being studied to survey whole sweep of Latin American waters from Caribbean to Cape Horn for fishing possibilities. (N.Y. Times)





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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 406

December 12, 1941.

LATEST WAR LINE-UP IN LATIN AMERICAN REPUBLICS: Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala and Nicaragua declare state of war against Germany and Italy. Mexico breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany and Italy; Axis funds frozen. Neutrals include Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Bolivia and Venezuela.

HEARINGS ON SUGAR BILL which would cut sugar import quotas of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Philippines completed by Senate Finance Committee. Senators O'Mahoney and Murray urge approval of bill as stimulant for domestic production; Senator Barkley says it would be "monstrous" to cut Cuba's quota just after she has declared war on Japan. Bill opposed by President Roosevelt, Secretaries Hull, Ickes and Wickard on ground of its interference with "good neighbor" policy. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL SUPPORTS ANTI-AXIS MEASURE which chokes off Axis' last regular transit link with Western Hemisphere by refusal of Standard Oil Company to supply gasoline to Lati, Italian transatlantic airline. Action will probably maroon 3 Lati planes. Italian bomber that had come for demonstration to the Brazilian Army took off suddenly on northward route. (N.Y. Times)

CHILE ESTABLISHES WHALING FACTORY to convert whales caught off Valparaiso into commercial products. (Washington Star)

LOPEZ NOMINATED IN COLOMBIA. Former President named for Presidency in May elections by Liberal party convention which gave him 164 votes. Convention approved resolution supporting foreign policy based on cooperation with United States. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO ACTS TO SUPPRESS FIFTH COLUMN MOVEMENT by Japanese nationals, 5,000 of whom moved into Lower California in what was termed "a prearranged plan." Former President General Cardenas arrives in Mexico City to discuss situation with President Avila Camacho. (Washington Post)

MEXICO PLEASED BY CHOICE OF MESSERSMITH. Confidence in his ability to settle U.S. oil claims based on reports of his successful career in Europe and Cuba. His solution believed to be some persuasion of oil companies to accept Mexican proposal for final settlement. Dispatches from Havana describing success of Ambassador and Mrs. Messersmith lead Mexicans to believe that they will be very simpático with local officials and society leaders. (John W. Wise, Washington Post)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 407

December 13-15, 1941.

JAPANESE ATTACK UNITED AMERICAS. Popular reaction is one of anger and outrage at treacherous attack on one of the American republics. Official reaction is not as uniform, attitude of South American governments being determined by geographical position. Whereas Central America is virtually at war, the severest measure in South America is rupture of diplomatic relations with Japan by Colombia, most northern of the South American States. Diversity of official reactions is proof of necessity of holding conference of American Foreign Ministers in order to unify attitudes and coordinate efforts. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

NAZIS STILL TRYING TO SPLIT AMERICAS. Authoritative article in German press states that "developments of last two years have shown that the United States cannot take care of South American commerce and replace the European market." Claim of "hemisphere war," says German writer has been made in order to drag South America into the conflict. Italian press concerned at foreign policy of Brazil and Argentina. Brazil's declaration of solidarity with Washington, the newspaper feels, will soon become more than platonic and eventually extend to armed assistance. (N.Y. Times)

SENATORS RESTORE OLD SUGAR QUOTAS. Senate Finance Committee votes 10 to 5 for substitute for sugar quota bill recently passed by House. Substitute, continuing with slight changes the present quota act which expires on December 31, was offered by Senator O'Mahoney who originally had sponsored a duplicate of the House measure, but yielded to Administration pleas that it would be a blow at the "good neighbor" policy to cut Cuban quota. (N.Y. Times)

CONTROL OF DRUG TRADE LAUNCHED IN LATIN AMERICA. Surveys show that until recently Germany controlled 75 percent of Latin American drug business. Objective of drive is to destroy influence of Nazi control of drug outlets. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZILIANS NUZZLE PRO-AXIS AGENCIES. German, Italian, Japanese news services curbed; Federal Army garrisons increased in São Paulo and Santa Catharina where there are large Japanese and German settlements. Macedo Soares, publisher, urges closing in Brazil of channels of Axis espionage, operated in large part through Axis embassies and consulates. (N.Y. Times)

CHILE TO CONVOY SHIPS along coast from Port Arica to Magallanes in the Strait of Magellan. After announcement of Chilean Navy a United States ship entered Valparaiso under escort of Chilean destroyer. (N.Y. Times)

WATERSLIDE DEBACLES PERUVIAN CITY. 500 lives lost at Huaraz. Cause of catastrophe not ascertained. An official party headed by President Manuel Prado y Ugarteche was expected in Huaraz tonight. Their trip from Lima delayed by fact that the earth tremor blocked a portion of the Pan-American Highway. (Washington Post)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 408

December 16, 1941.

RUBBER DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA will not be impeded by involvement of United States in war, according to announcement of Department of Agriculture. In collaboration with 12 Latin American governments, the Department has planted nearly 10,000,000 rubber seeds in tropical America since starting its program 16 months ago. Additional 5,000,000 seeds planted by commercial interests. (N.Y. Times)

LATIN AMERICAN ART. Interest aroused by recent exhibition of paintings sent by office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and Metropolitan Museum of Art to several Latin American countries. Says El Tiempo, Bogotá daily: "This event shows the spirit of the new Pan Americanism. It is clear that without a strong cultural basis the other forms of friendship will always be on the verge of perishing." El Mundo, of Buenos Aires: "The United States has sent us an embassy of the spirit." Comment from Mexico: "Their painters have succeeded in bringing the life of the United States to Mexico--\*\*\* those who live, who suffer, who wear tatters like a Mexican, and who don bright colors on Sunday." Preparations are being made to bring Latin American exhibitions to the States. (Washington Post)

ARGENTINA MAY DECLARE STATE OF SIEGE in order to curb pro-Axis propagandists. If government takes "state of siege" powers, declares Acting President Castillo, they will be used "to limit the right of assembly and freedom of opinion only in the measure strictly necessary to achieve the purposes set forth in the non-belligerency decrees." Señor Castillo's declaration of intention to stop activities in behalf of enemies of United States caused surprise in political and diplomatic circles. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

SEIZED TINPLATE SHIPPED TO CHILE. U.S. acquires 590,000 pounds of stored tinplate from Union Oberdreissdach of Switzerland. Officials of Economic Defense Board say that Swiss concern had placed its tin in hands of freight forwarding house but ignored latter's requests for permission to sell to government or any one else. Prices paid by government range from \$9 to \$12 a base box. Newly acquired tin rushed to Chile to be used for packing foodstuffs. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICAN NEWS; Mexican Federation of Labor holds demonstration to show that labor supports government in foreign policy; Mexican marines have seized two "suspiciously acting" Japanese fishing boats off tip of Lower California, crews interned; Editorial in El Universal replies to those who argue that real enemy is "American imperialism," says "the defeat of the United States and its submission to enslavement by Germany would not mean greater liberty for the Mexican people, but their absorption into a Nazified United States as slaves of slaves;" General Lázaro Cárdenas' appointment as Commander in Chief of the land and naval forces of Pacific coast purported to be a political move designed to win over leader of opposition and unify extreme Rights and Lefts; Sinarquistas, agrarian Catholic counter-revolutionary group, indicate that they will remain aloof from foreign affairs.





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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 409

December 17, 1941.

LATIN AMERICAN WAR DEVELOPMENTS: Argentina placed in state of siege after Cabinet session of 2 hours and 18 minutes; all constitutional guarantees suspended. Only limitation on Acting President's powers is that he may not condemn or punish without court trials. Defense of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego most pressing Argentine problem. Southern sea route would acquire strategic importance if Panama Canal should be blocked. Pro-Nazi daily El Pampero asserts it is "inevitable" that Great Britain will transfer Falkland Islands to United States. Suggests further that today's state of siege decree is a political move to consolidate control of government and silence criticism of election frauds. Nazi-owned condor airline in Argentina suspends Buenos Aires-Santiago service because Standard Oil has ceased supplying gasoline, acting on instructions from U.S. Embassy.

Chile bans radio amateurs. Following decree forbidding publication of broadcast of reports on activities of warships and other vessels, another decree announces closing of amateur radio stations for war period. Vital parts to be removed from all sets and any contact between radio fans and private stations unlawful.

Cuba to seize and hold all enemy property for duration of war.

Mexico's President Avila Camacho requests Congressional authorization "to permit, in cases of obvious emergency, the passage through national territory of military forces of other republics of the hemisphere." Bill would permit stationing of foreign ships and naval planes in Mexican waters. Communications across Mexican border by letter or telegram prohibited by Herbert Chatham, assistant U.S. collector of customs. Order is to enforce law against trading with enemy. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL WILL TAKE MORE ACTIVE PART in war, says Dr. Paulo Bittencourt, editor and publisher of Correio da Manhã, and recipient of the Maria Moors Cabot Prize in Journalism. Editor declares that "Brazilian public opinion in its greatest majority has a clear conscience and a clear understanding of the present terrible conflict." Terming the Pearl Harbor attack "frightful duplicity," he affirms belief that "in the proper and necessary moment Brazil will act as one man." Refers to President Roosevelt's "We shall win the war and we shall win the peace" as words which "all humanity should have in their minds." (N.Y. Times)

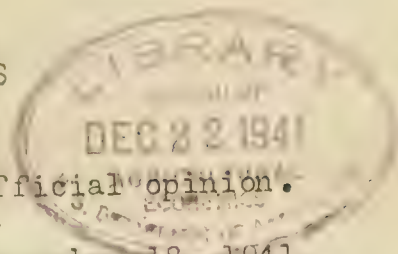
MEXICAN BEAN BEETLE slows down spread according to Smithsonian report. Pest which attacks legumes crossed border into our Southwest 100 years ago during Mexican War, but did not prosper. Appeared in Alabama after First World War and spread rapidly in the moister, warmer climate for it is a restless flier and lays huge numbers of eggs. (N.Y. Times)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 410

December 18, 1941.

CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS AT RIO set for January 15. Secretary of State Hull or Under Secretary Welles expected to head United States delegation. Conference docket approved by Pan American governing board includes examination of measures to curb activities of "undesirable aliens" in Western Hemisphere; study of program to conserve strategic materials through export control; maintenance of adequate shipping facilities for Western Hemisphere commerce; and "furnishing to each country the imports essential to the maintenance of its domestic economy." Canada may be invited to join the Pan American Union and participate in the meeting, which would make America "a complete geographic unity." (Washington Post)

GUAYULE PRODUCTION suggested by William O'Neil, president of the General Tire and Rubber Company, to Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, as an immediate source of rubber. Mr. O'Neil's plan calls for an immediate survey of Latin American countries to determine how much wild guayule is available. (N.Y. Times)

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM AMERICAN REPUBLICS. First arrivals are Virgilio Díaz Ordóñez, Rector of the University of Santo Domingo, and Mrs. Ordóñez. Will visit universities and other cultural institutions in U.S. at invitation of State Department. Other arrivals later this month include Carolina Nabuco, author of A Sucessora which has aroused new interest because of "literary parallel" with the recent best-seller Rebecca; Francisco Mignone, composer, Oswaldo Orico, journalist, -- all from Brazil; and other distinguished citizens of Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela. These guests of the State Department will establish contacts with leaders and institutions in their several specialties. (N.Y. Times)

GERMAN MONOPOLY OF HORMONES IN LATIN AMERICA broken by Justice Department. Two consent decrees filed by Justice which will open Latin America to U.S. chemical industry without interference from German cartel arrangement and also dry up source of financing Nazi agents. Involved in case are hormones, "particularly valuable in the treatment of soldiers and civilians in wartime." Action expected to plug leak in economic blockade of Germany which had been destroyed by American firms filling orders for German companies with products made here, but packaged to resemble German-produced goods--resulting in deception of Latin American customers in believing Germany could continue to do business directly. (Washington Post)

ARGENTINA AT LIES STATE OF SIEGE by cancelling meeting scheduled by Acción Argentina to "pay homage to President Roosevelt." Permission to broadcast speeches for rally denied. No evidence, however, of censorship on outgoing news dispatches. Press reaction to state of siege decree: English-language Standard defies it by criticizing it strongly. Noticias Graficas appears with blank instead of leading article, and uses Señor Castillo's words "We must not speak evil of any one" as a caption over two blank columns. The labor newspaper Hora avoided ban on "tendentious comment" by accompanying its account of German Ambassador's call on Señor Castillo with drawing of swastika-spotted hog. Despite Castillo's denial, a change in cabinet is rumored. Result would be replacement of followers of former President Justo by persons loyal to Castillo. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

(Over)

NAZI PLOT TO SABOTAGE BOLIVIAN TIN EXPORT by wrecking railways over which war metals are shipped has been thwarted. All of Bolivia's tin and lead production goes to U.S. under a purchase agreement. (N.Y. Times)

PRICE REVISIONS ON METALS SOUGHT BY BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT since current contracts are based on pre-Pacific war quotations. Also, there is a lack of carriers with recent production piled up in various ports. Meanwhile cost of production is rising steadily. Freight to United States cost \$30 a ton compared with \$12 previously, and there is \$12 higher insurance for a metric ton on 65 percent ores. (N.Y. Times)

CHILE'S RADICALS CHOOSE JUAN RIOS as their nominee for February election in which Chile will name successor to late President Aguirre Cerda. Threatened split in party's ranks averted when defeated left-wing candidate, Gonzalez Videla, announced he would direct Rios' campaign. (Christian Science Monitor)

MEXICO PLEDGES AID FROM HER FACTORIES AND FIELDS until circumstances force her to acts of belligerency. Secretary of Agriculture estimates that in 1942 Mexico can supply U.S. with 34,000 tons of rice, 50,000 tons of tomatoes, 35,000 tons of coffee, 26,000 tons of beans and between 450,000 and 500,000 head of cattle, should they be required. (John W. White, Washington Post)

SPANISH NATIONALS REMOVING FUNDS FROM MEXICAN BANKS. Withdrawals prompted by fear that if pro-Fascist Spain becomes a belligerent, Mexico would freeze assets of Spanish nationals as it has those of German, Italian and Japanese. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 411

December 19, 1941.

U.S. CHAPTER OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES holds December meeting at Pan American Union, hears talk by Karl Olsen of the Office of Inter-American Affairs, recently returned from six months in Latin America. Membership in society is open to all persons in the Americas engaged professionally in agricultural sciences.

ARGENTINIANS DROP ROOSEVELT RALLY. Government refuses to make exception to state of siege ruling for open air rally scheduled to express attachment of Argentine people to cause of democracy and pay respect to President Roosevelt. Minister of Interior Miguel Culaciati calls representatives of U.S. press together to explain that no offense to U.S. was intended, but that all public meetings, irrespective of character, are prohibited. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

BRASILIAN PRESS WARMS OF AXIS PERIL. Imparcial goes so far as to refer to "Nazi assassins" in headline. Jornal calls for "extirpation" in Brazil of all Nazi propaganda. Correio da Manhã warns authorities to watch the 300,000 Japanese scattered in São Paulo and Amazon valley and urges police measures; concluded that war will mean "hari kiri for Japan." Noticia urges immediate closing of Transocean news agency "which is no news agency but a spies' agency." (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO SET TO DECLARE WAR says Miguel Alemán, Mexican Minister of the Interior, in interview in New York. Discussing Mexico's reaction to Japanese attack, he said that Mexicans were not so surprised as North Americans. "I think," he added, "that President Roosevelt has been right and has known what he was doing during the past five years. But it seems to me the American people, even yet, are not entirely aware of the dangers that surround them." (N.Y. Times)

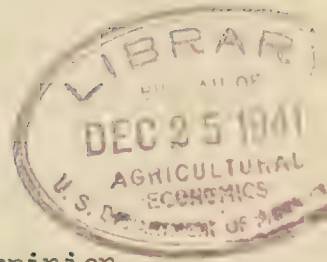
CONFIDENCE IN AVILA CAMACHO seen in return of capital to Mexico, according to Salvador Ugarte, president of the Banco de Comercio of Mexico City. "Mexico presents brilliant opportunities for the investment of foreign capital," the banker said. "Strikes are decreasing and industrial activity is increasing. Iron foundries in Mexico City and Monterrey have doubled their output and new factories are being built in various sections of the country."

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 412

December 20-22, 1941.

SETTLEMENT OF PERU-ECUADOR DISPUTE before Rio conference urged by Peoples Mandate Committee for Inter-American Peace and Co-operation. Appeal sent to affiliates in Latin American countries describes practice of peaceful settlement as essential to policy of Pan Americanism. (N.Y. Times)

LATIN BASES OF AXIS subject of report issued by special House Committee headed by Representative Jack Nichols of Oklahoma. Secretary of State Hull appreciates report on Axis controlled airports in strategic areas, and promises to meet committee more than half way in utilizing information and suggestions produced. (N.Y. Times)

ENEMY SUBS OFF CALIFORNIA indicate presence of secret bases along west coast of Latin America. (Foster Hailey, N.Y. Times)

DRIVE TO WIN DRUG TRADE opened in Latin America. Nazis purported to have around \$30,000,000 of reserve supplies on hand, enough for two years' business. Because of light weight of most drug products, supplies have been shipped by Italian airplanes landing in Natal, Brazil, one plane carrying as much as 8 tons of drugs. American companies have just started selling and advertising campaign designed to break Nazi control of drug trade. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINA MAINTAINING HER LINK WITH AXIS. Return of Dr. Balbrán to Rome to resume his post taken as indication that Argentine Government foresees no rupture of relations with Axis, which in turn suggests that no general agreement will be reached at Rio for breaking off of relations between all Latin American countries and powers at war against U.S. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

CENSORSHIP OF PRESS IN ARGENTINA held to favor foes of U.S. Instructions are that newspapers may print nothing that "affects the neutrality of the Argentine nation," or that deprecates "the government, political regime, head of state or officials" of any belligerent nation, or that would "disturb the friendly relations of the Argentine nation with other countries." Since Argentine press strongly favors the democratic cause, this is to the advantage of the Axis powers. (Arnaldo Cortesi, N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA BREAKS OFF RELATIONS with Germany and Italy. (PM)

CUBA TO BE PLACED IN STATE OF EMERGENCY under terms authorizing President Batista to govern by decree for 45-day period. Within this time, nation will be placed on war footing. (PM)

GUATEMALA DENIES EXECUTIONS of leaders of totalitarian conspiracy to overthrow government. (N.Y. Times)

NICARAGUA DECLARES WAR on Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary. (PM)

(Over)

GERMANS COUNTERACT PRO-AMERICAN WAVE IN MEXICO. Journalistic enemies, Omega and Vombre Libre, express in crudely exaggerated form feelings of hostility that are shared by average man and Latin America generally. Average Latin American would not fully endorse their virulent articles--nor would he wholly reject their arguments. Recurring theme is that Axis might win and so Mexico should watch her step. This has been the central theme of anti-American propaganda throughout Latin America since fall of France--a theme that gains plausibility for some minds with each military or naval setback for the democracies. (Harold Callender, N.Y. Times)

MEXICO SEES EXAGGERATIONS in United States Congressional committee's report on Axis activity in Latin America. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO CAN AID THE U.S. with shoes and blankets from her factories, wool, leather, meat, rice from her fields, and metals from her mines: antimony, vanadium, molybdenum, copper, lead, zinc, tin and mercury, and most of all by making sure that no Japanese base is established on the flank of supply lines between the U.S. and Hawaii. (L.F. Stuntz, Washington Post).

MEXICO IMPOSES RE-EXPORT CONTROL on goods needed for domestic consumption, most of which are imported from U.S. under priorities rulings. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 413

December 23, 1941.

SUMNER WELLES TO ATTEND RIO CONFERENCE. The Under Secretary of State is expected to delay his departure until the second week in January, and then leave with two or three State Department officials on a Pan American clipper. Other members of the U.S. delegation probably will leave by steamship January 2, accompanied by newspaper correspondents and delegations from Mexico and other Central American republics. (Herald Tribune)

ARGENTINA GETS AN O.P.M. New office, established by the War Ministry, will supervise and coordinate activities in eight armament plants, including a factory manufacturing training planes, a small-arms plant and an explosive plant. (Herald Tribune)

BRAZIL PREPARES SPANISH DEFENSES. Troop concentrations at Recife, sometimes called the capital of northeast Brazil, include the elite of the best-equipped infantry. In addition to having the finest harbor in the northeast coastal region, Recife is a necessary stop for international air lines. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA COMMITTEE REPORTED. El Tiempo announces that the Conservative National Committee has decided not to nominate a candidate for the Presidential election next May. Conservative leaders favor supporting Independent Liberal candidate, Dr. Carlos Uribe Echeverri, who is opposing Dr. Alfonso López, National Liberal candidate. (N.Y. Times)

RECORD BUDGET IN PANAMA amounting to \$30,127,977 ratified by President Ricardo Adolfo de la Guardia. New budget exceeds that of preceding period by over \$7,000,000. The Ministry of Government and Justice gets largest allotment, part of which will be used for defense purposes. (N.Y. Times)

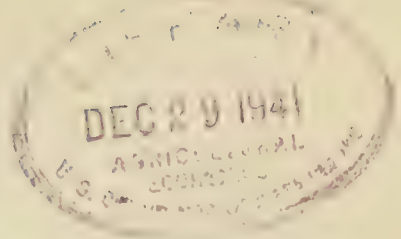
NAZIS ADVISED TO STOP URUGUAY. German Consulate suggests avoiding summer resorts until after Rio conference, possibly because of belief that Uruguay may break off relations with Germany. (Herald Tribune)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 414

December 23, 1941.

NINE DELEGATES WILL ACCOMPANY WELLES TO RIO CONFERENCE. Pan American conference advisers to include Leslie A. Wheeler, Director of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, as Department of Agriculture representative. The State Department announced that Secretary of State Hull could not attend the conference because of pressure of official duties in Washington. (N.Y. Herald Tribune)

LATIN NATIONS TO GET DOCUMENTARY FILMS. Titles of first group of 27 government-sponsored films for distribution in Central and South America announced by Division of Motion Pictures of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. The films, dealing with cultural, industrial, recreational and defense activities in the United States, include the following: "Airacobra," "The Battle," "Eyes of the Navy," "Aluminum and the Two Americas," "Basketball Technique," "North American Colleges," "Excursion in Science." Films to be shown in Brazil have been sound-tracked in Portuguese; those for other countries on the continent in Spanish. French dialogue is used in film for Haiti. (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL SETS COCOA MINIMUM PRICE. Interpreted as a move to co-operate with U.S. Government's recent cocoa price ceiling order, Brazilian shippers set a minimum price of 8.25¢ per pound cost and freight United States for Superior Bahia cocoa. It is estimated that about 50 points must be added to Bahia minimum for war risk insurance, etc., which would bring the price up to about 8.75¢ per pound or about 20 points under domestic ceiling level. Importers believe that setting of minimum by Brazilian shippers may lead to subsequent higher Bahia prices and may force Office of Price Administration to revise the Brazilian cocoa price upward. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

U.S. AND CUBA SIGN NEW TRADE AGREEMENT. Under terms of supplementary trade agreement, Cuba grants tariff concessions on 38 types of goods imported from U.S., and this country grants concessions on sugar, tobacco, veal and beef, certain fresh vegetables, granite, etc. imported from Cuba. State Department announcement emphasizes importance of sugar question, disclosing that in an exchange of notes, the U.S. gives assurances to Cuba "that it will exert every appropriate effort to safeguard the position of Cuba as a supplier of sugar." (Washington Star)

CONSULTANT NAMED IN MEXICAN OIL SETTLEMENT. Morris L. Cooke, technical consultant to Sidney Hillman, designated by President as U.S. expert to meet with an appointee of the Mexican Government for settlement of Mexican oil controversy. Mr. Cooke's duty is to determine just compensation to be paid nationals of U.S. whose properties, rights or interests in the petroleum industry in Mexico were affected by expropriation of American oil properties by Mexican Government in 1938. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)





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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 415

December 30, 1941.

GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY "JUST A PHRASE" declares Dr. Lucio Mendieta y Núñez, of the University of Mexico. Dr. Mendieta's paper was read by Clarence Senior at general meeting of the American Sociological Society in New York. In order to convert the good neighbor policy into reality, he insists that it will be necessary to eliminate the "resentment and mistrust" between the Anglo-American and the Latin American. He advocates an Inter-American Sociological Society to help promote realization of the obstacles dividing the cultures of the hemisphere and offers a program on which such a society might be based. (N.Y. Times)

HENDERSON INCREASES CEILINGS FOR COFFEE; maximum spot prices for green coffee one-fourth cent higher in revised schedule. In statement Mr. Henderson says: "The Inter-American Coffee Board has been fully informed as to the substance of today's schedule and members of that board, representing 14 Latin American neighbor countries responsible for about 98 percent of U.S. coffee supplies, have expressed the belief that the OPA ceiling prices provide a sound basis for trading." (N.Y. Times)

MANDATE COM MITTEE URGES END OF PERU-EQUADOR DISPUTE. Mediation Commission composed of Ambassador Espil, representing Argentina, Ambassador Martins, representing Brazil, and the Under Secretary of State, for the United States, recently succeeded in establishing a demilitarized zone but has not yet arranged with Peru to withdraw her troops from the southern province of Ecuador, of which they have taken possession. (Washington Post)

AXIS INFLUENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA SUFFERS BLOW with suspension of Italian airline, Lati, which was the last transportation link between Nazi Europe and the southern New World. Lati carried Axis diplomats and secret agents and totalitarian propaganda from Berlin and Rome and Tokyo, and returned with vital war materials and military secrets to Germany. Only one airline in South America remains in Axis hands: the Italian financed flying boat line from Buenos Aires to Montevideo to Asunción and back to Buenos Aires. (Washington Post)

PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA "99 PERCENT DEMOCRATIC" says Señor Eduardo Araujo, member of the Argentine Cámara, and leader of the left wing radical party. He stresses that Latin America must fulfill for the U.S. the role this country played in respect to England before the Japanese attack in the Pacific. "All Latin American countries," he declares, "must assist the U.S. in this decisive fight as reserves for raw materials, merchant ships and other supplies." (Christian Science Monitor)

BRAZIL TAKES MILITARY STEPS to insure further safety. Garrisons increased at São Paulo where there are concentrations of Japanese and Italians; special corps formed to guard airports; and censorship has been tightened in order to muzzle pro-Axis press. Some newspapers urging actual declaration of war. This is expected just prior to or shortly after meeting of Pan American chancellors at Rio. President Vargas will preside at opening and it is assumed that Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha will be chosen permanent president. (Christian Science Monitor)

(over)

TELEPHONE CABLE CONNECTING RIO WITH PETROPOLIS CUT; damage attributed to saboteur. Cable had been laid to expand telephone service when it was believed Pan American conference would be held at Petrópolis. Presumed that damage was intended to handicap foreign press. (N.Y. Times)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALCOHOLISM IN CHILE. Milk bars set up in drinking centers to thwart liquor trend. Owned by private concern which does not seek profits until milk-drinking habit has become popular with Chileans. Enterprise has full support of government. It was the late President Aguirre Cerda's idea to encourage the poorer classes to renounce liquor for milk, and so solve the problem of malnutrition. (Christian Science Monitor)

CUBA BANS DISPLAY OF SPANISH FLAG by Spanish regional societies. Ruling in accordance with Presidential decree of last January which prohibited display of flag of any totalitarian country except from buildings occupied by diplomatic and consular representatives. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA HOLDS SPANISH SHIP, believing that Spain might be drawn into war on side of Axis. Ship first boarded in search of illicit cargo - released, and held again under government charge that it carried an excessive load. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

AIR STUDENTS ARRIVE FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC to receive instructions at invitation of U.S. Total of 526, selected in scholarship examinations in their native countries, expected to be in training by May. (N.Y. Times)

CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT SINARQUISTAS in Mexico to be launched early next month. The Sinarquistas, charged with favoring totalitarian nations, have begun large-scale agrarian colonization of Lower California with government consent. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICO READY TO BEGIN PRODUCTION OF QUININE at government experimental stations. Project is part of Administration's campaign to increase output of drugs for combatting tropical diseases. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO'S ROLE AS ARSENAL more vital to U.S. than an open declaration against Axis. According to a distinguished Mexican close to the government, the U.S. prefers that Mexico assume a state of benevolent non-belligerency, so that American forces need not be stationed on Mexico's strategic Pacific Coast. If Mexico did declare war, she would receive lend-lease equipment which her army needs, but official opinion is that this advantage would be more than offset by strategic disadvantages of entry into the war. (Harold Callender, N.Y. Times)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 416

December 31, 1941.

NAZI ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH AMERICA. Baron Edmund von Thermann, German Ambassador to Argentina, being called home for consultation. Informed persons express belief that Argentina and Germany have agreed to get criticized envoy out of country before Rio conference. Baron von Thermann has been under repeated attack for abusing diplomatic privileges.

Brazil's State police and organized Nazis clash in State of Rio Grande do Sul. Sixteen booted storm troopers rounded up in police raids, which resulted in uncovering of armed Nazi elements in numerous towns.

Bolivian tin output slowed by Nazi agents. After President Roosevelt proclaimed all-out help to England, mine books revealed tin output fell between 20 and 50 percent in shafts under German technical supervision. Germans were not only discouraging Indians but were fomenting strikes and organizing Nazi cells within mining camps. The U.S. declaration of war against Axis powers gives Bolivian Government grounds for rounding up Germans as a wartime precaution. (John Lear)

Ecuador orders Walter Guisse, accused Nazi propaganda agent, to leave country within 48 hours.

Mexican members of Chamber of Deputies offer today in formal declaration to "settle accounts" personally with fifth columnists in Mexico. They charge German Minister, Rüdiger von Collenberg, with heading Axis undercover operations. Mexican Senate resolves to investigate "alarmists, saboteurs, international spies and fifth columnists who endanger the stability of our institutions."

Nicaragua's President Anastasio Somoza issues instructions to port authorities to watch Germans, Italians and other aliens, and requests that all shipping news be suppressed. Suspicious persons, regardless of nationality, will be transferred to interior. (Press of December 31)

FILM TO FEATURE RICHES OF SOUTH AMERICA. Three-man unit under Willard Van Dyke to make "The Bridge" under sponsorship of the Foreign Policy Association of New York, with Sloan Foundation grant. Film will stress thesis that, to enable South America to buy more American goods, the U.S. must encourage higher standard of living. "We cannot expect to do much trade with South America in the long run if we do not help our Southern neighbors develop a buying power," Mr. Van Dyke said. "Our film will attempt to show the necessity for bilateral trade and suggest methods of making this possible." (N.Y. Times)

VARGAS TO ADDRESS BRAZILIANS TODAY in his first speech since United States' entry into the war. Address, coming a fortnight before Foreign Ministers of the American republics confer at Rio, awaited with interest by diplomatic corps. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICAN SCHOOLS TO ABOLISH CO-EDUCATION. Battle between Rightist and Leftist factions over educational reforms is most deep-rooted conflict in Mexican life. Division of sexes in schools a decisive victory for conservative group, and has been greeted enthusiastically by Catholic groups, counter-revolutionary politicians and the conservative press. All of these sources combined to instigate and perpetuate the anti-liberal education campaign rampant in Mexico in recent months. (Christian Science Monitor)

(over)

MEXICO HEARS U.S. SEEKS REFINERIES. In connection with Mexican-United States trade treaty soon to be negotiated in Washington, it is stated that Americans are considering building several refineries in Mexico as part of a program for trebling American gasoline output. Experts agree that U.S. has no urgent need for Mexico's crude oil now, but in the long run she may need it and it would be strategically advantageous to build new refineries in Mexico. The view in Mexico is that this is an oil war and sooner or later Mexico's resources will be needed, and the situation will change from future development to immediate exploitation. (Harold Callender, N.Y. Times)

HULL TO NEGOTIATE TRADE TREATY WITH PERU. United States prepared to consider concessions on wide variety of products now regulated by Tariff Act of 1930. These include tungsten, hemp, gums, resins, oils, quinine and crude minerals. Views in writing about proposed concessions should be submitted by noon January 24 to committee for reciprocity information, Tariff Commission, and public hearings before that body will open February 2. (Washington Post)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
For Administrative Use



Index to Latin American News Digest

December 1-15, 1941

NOTE: In each day's digest, items of general Latin American and Pan American interest appear first. These are followed by items dealing with specific countries and their relations with the United States. Each item from December 1-15, inclusive, is here listed under as many countries, products or other subjects as it touches. The items indexed are despatches published in the press.

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